

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 101632Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5975

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, GW, KN, KS

SUBJECT: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: KOREA

REF: CAIRO 10405 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER CONVENED MEETING OF CORE GROUP AUGUST 10 TO REVIEW RESULTS OF HIS AND SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL CHANG'S APPROACHES TO FAHMY ON KOREAN ISSUE. STELTZER REPORTED THAT FAHMY SEEMED MORE OPEN-MINDED AND POSITIVE CONCERNING KOREAN ISSUE THAN HERETOFORE. CHANGE STATED IMILAR REACTION AND HIGHLIGHTED FAHMY'S OFFER TO MEDIATE NORTH-SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE IN CAIRO PROVIDED BOTH PARTIES AGREED. GENERAL CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT GOE MIGHT TRY TO MODERATE KOREAN RESOLUTION AT COLOMBO SUMMIT. END SUMMARY

1. SINCE AMBASSADOR WAS IN ALEXADNRIA, DCM ATTENDED CORE GROUP MEETING CONVENED BY WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR STELTZER MORNING OF AUGUST 10. IN ATTENDANCE WERE BELGIAN AND DUTCH AMBASSADORS, CANADIAN, JAPANESE AND BRITISH CHARGES AS WELL  
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AS SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL CHANG. (OTHER

MEMBERS OF CORE GROUP DO NOT HAVE RESIDENT MISSIONS IN CAIRO).

2. AT STELTZER'S REQUEST CHANG REPORTED ON HIS AUGUST 5 MEETING WITH FONMIN FAHMY AND MINSTATE MFA MOHAMMED RIAD AT FAHMY'S BEACH COTTAGE IN ALEXANDRIA. AFTER CHANGE HAD PRESENTED SOUTH KOREAN VIEWPOINT, INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS IN HIS JULY 22 SEATTLE SPEECH AND ROK EFFORTS FOR AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS, FAHMY INTERJECTED A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE IDEA OF A DIALOGUE. IN AN "UNEQUIVOCAL TONE" FAHMY STATED EGYPT PREPARED TO PERFORM A MEDIARY ROLE AND WOULD BE WILLING HOST SUCH MEETINGS IN CAIRO. FAHMY SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS OFFER WITH NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION AT COMOMBO AND WOULD OBTAIN ROK'S RESPONSE FROM CHANGE AFTER FAHMY'S RETURN. IF BOTH RESPONSES WERE POSITIVE FAHMY WILL ANNOUNCE EGYPT'S WILLINGNESS MEDIATE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. CHANG PROFESSED TO BE VERY PLEASED AT FAHMY'S RESPONSE, WHICH HE HAD NOT EXPECTED ALTHOUGH HE HAD MADE INFORMAL SUGGESTION OF EGYPTIAN MEDIATION TO HEAD OF MFA ASIAN DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR.

3. AMBASSADOR STELTZER THEN BRIEFLY REVIEWED HIS OWN MEETING WITH FAHMY ALONG THE LINES OF WHAT HE HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS IN REFTEL. STELTZER CHARACTERIZED FAHMY'S OFFER TO MEDIATE OR TO SERVE AS CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AS "UNEXPECTEDLY POSITIVE".

4. JAPANESE CHARGE RECOUNTED A MEETING HE HAD THREE DAYS AGO WITH MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS IN WHICH LATTER HAD TALKED ABOUT EGYPT TAKING INITIATIVE FOR NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND HAVING HAD A POSITIVE REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH. SINCE THIS CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE FOLLOWING FAHMY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS STELTZER, EILTS AND CHANG, THIS SEEMED TO BE A SIGN THAT FAHMY'S PROPOSAL MAY NOW HAVE BECOME GOE POLICY.

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5. DCM GAVE BRIEF ACCOUNT OF AMBASSADOR EILT'S MEETING WITH FAHMY, WHICH SEEMED TO INDICATE EGYPT WAS LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO PLAY A CONCILIATORY ROLE WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY OFFENDING NORTH KOREANS OR BECOMING SUBJECT TO RADICAL ARAB ATTACK.

6. WHEN ASKED HIS ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE NORTH KOREAN REACTION TO FAHMY PROPOSAL FOR EGYPTIAN

MEDIATION, CHANGE SAID HE BELIEVED DPRK MIGHT ACCEPT IT IN AN INITIAL STAGE IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER ROK WOULD ALSO ACCEPT. CHANG SAID HE HAD URGED HIS GOVERNMENT TO REPLY POSITIVELY TO FAHMY'S PROPOSAL.

7. MEETING ENDED ON NOTE OF GENERALLY CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM ABOUT ROLE EGYPT WOULD PLAY AT COLOMBO ON KOREAN ISSUE AND WITH AMBASSADOR STELTZER COMMENTING THAT CORE GROUP'S INTERVENTION HAD PERHAPS BEEN USEFUL. CANADIAN CHARGE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM THAT GOE WAS PREPARED TO FIGHT THE TIDE OF THE NON-ALIGNED WHICH SEEMED SUPPORTIVE OF NORTH KOREAN VIEWPOINT.

8. COMMENT: WE TEND TO AGREE WITH CANADIAN COLLEAGUE AND TO DOUBT THAT GOE WILL WISH GET CAUGHT IN MIDDLE WHEN CHIPS ARE DOWN. NEVERTHELESS, IF OTHER MODERATE STATES TAKE THE LEAD IN PUSHING FOR A BALANCED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DIALGOUE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, EGYPT WOULD LIKE TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE WITHOUT DAMAGING ITS RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. JUDGING FROM REPORTS OF HEAVY NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY IN COLOMBO (JAPANESE CHAGE SAID DPRK DELEGATION WAS 120), EGYPT MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO GRACEFULLY AVOID SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREAN POSITION.

9. WE ALSO BELIEVE CHANG'S OPTIMISM OVER FAHMY'S MEDIATION OFFER MAY BE PARTIALLY DUE TO HIS WISHFUL THINKING CONCERNING IMPORTANT ROLE ROK CONSUL GENERAL IN CAIRO WOULD PLAY IF SUCH TALKS ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE. CHANGE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYS BEING CENTRAL FIGURE IN CORE GROUP DELIBERATIONS.  
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